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Docket No. GJE-63
Serial No. 09/806,548Remarks

Claims 1-11, 15-18 and 20-22 are pending in the subject application. By way of the amendment of this date, claim 23 has been added. Therefore, claims 1-11, 15-18 and 20-23 are now before the Examiner for consideration. The subject invention provides an unique and advantageous adsorbent medium comprising particles of a chopped sponge material carrying functional groups, wherein the particles are of heterogeneous particle size and are obtained by chopping a larger block of the sponge material. Certain of the claims have been amended for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with the Patent and Trademark Office Patent Business Goals (PBG), 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (September 8, 2000), in order to lend greater specificity to the claimed subject matter, advance prosecution, and facilitate the business interests of Applicant(s). Support for these new claims and the amendments to the pending claims can be found throughout the subject specification, including, for example, at page 3, about line 5. Favorable consideration of the claims now presented, in view of the remarks and amendments set forth herein, is earnestly solicited.

Claims 1-11, 15-18 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as their invention. Applicants have adopted the suggestion of the Examiner and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of record.

It should be understood that the amendments presented herein have been made solely to expedite prosecution of the subject application to completion and should not be construed as an express or implied reservation of the right to pursue the invention(s) disclosed in the subject application, including any subject matter canceled or not pursued during prosecution of the subject application, in a related application.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments to the claims, Applicants believe that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

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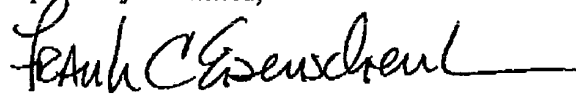
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 19-0065.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any of this response, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,



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